

Amendments to the Claims

1. **(Original)** A vehicle surrounding display device which selectively displays at least two types of images in a vicinity of a vehicle, the vehicle surrounding display device comprising:
 - a measurement section for measuring a distance and a direction from the vehicle to an obstacle in the vicinity of the vehicle;
 - a comparison section for comparing the distance measured by the measurement section with a predetermined threshold value;
 - a viewpoint determination section for determining a predetermined first viewpoint when a comparison result generated by the comparison section indicates that the measured distance is larger than the threshold value, and for determining a second viewpoint based on the direction measured by the measurement section when the comparison result generated by the comparison section indicates that the measured distance is not larger than the threshold value;
 - an image generating section for generating, when receiving the first viewpoint from the viewpoint determination section, a first image representing a view in the vicinity of the vehicle as seen from the received first viewpoint, and for generating, when receiving the second viewpoint from the viewpoint determination section, a second image representing a view of the vehicle and the obstacle as seen from an area in the vicinity of the received second viewpoint; and
 - a display section for displaying one of the first image and the second image generated by the image generating section.

2. **(Original)** The vehicle surrounding display device according to claim 1, wherein the first viewpoint and the second viewpoint are represented by three-dimensional coordinate values, respectively, a horizontal direction component of the second view point is larger than a horizontal direction component of the first viewpoint, and a vertical direction component of the second viewpoint is smaller than a vertical direction component of the first viewpoint.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The vehicle surrounding display device according to claim 2, wherein

the three-dimensional coordinate values of the first viewpoint are set at a point which is above the vehicle and, vehicle, and

the three-dimensional coordinate values of the second viewpoint are set at a point having a predetermined depression angle which is formed between the_a horizontal plane and a line extending from the second viewpoint in a direction of the vehicle and the obstacle.

4. **(Original)** The vehicle surrounding display device according to claim 3, wherein

the second viewpoint is set at a point contained in a vertical plane orthogonal to a line between the vehicle and the obstacle.

5. **(Original)** The vehicle surrounding display device according to claim 4, wherein

the vertical plane is a plane which perpendicularly bisects the line between the vehicle and the obstacle.

6. **(Original)** The vehicle surrounding display device according to claim 1, further comprising a contact determination section for determining whether the vehicle is capable of moving without contacting the obstacle, wherein

when the contact determination section determines that the vehicle is capable of moving without contacting the obstacle, the display section displays a third image different from the second image.

7. **(Original)** The vehicle surrounding display device according to claim 6, wherein

the measurement section further measures a height of the obstacle, and

the contact determination section determines whether the vehicle is capable of moving without contacting the obstacle based on the height of the obstacle.

8. **(Original)** The vehicle surrounding display device according to claim 6, further comprising a steering angle detecting section for detecting a steering angle of the vehicle, wherein

the contact determination section determines whether the vehicle is capable of moving without contacting the obstacle based on the steering angle detected by the steering angle detecting section.

9. **(Original)** The vehicle surrounding display device according to claim 8, wherein when the contact determination section determines that the vehicle is capable of moving without contacting the obstacle, the viewpoint determination section additionally determines the second viewpoint based on the steering angle detected by the steering angle detecting section.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The vehicle surrounding display device according to claim 9, wherein

the second viewpoint is set at three-dimensional coordinate values such that a driver can visually recognize both the obstacle and a spot, on the vehicle, ~~which contacts to contact~~ the obstacle.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The vehicle surrounding display device according to claim 1, further comprising a selecting section for selecting, when the measurement section measures a plurality of distances and directions of obstacles, one distance and one direction, of an obstacle which are most likely to contact the vehicle, wherein

the comparison section compares the distance selected by the selecting section with ~~a the~~ predetermined threshold value, and

the viewpoint determination section determines the second viewpoint based on the direction selected by the selecting section, when the comparison result generated by the comparison section indicates that the measured distance is not larger than the threshold value.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The vehicle surrounding display device according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of active sensors mounted at any of a front part, a rear part, a right side part or a left side part of the vehicle, wherein

each of the active sensors detects for an obstacle in the vicinity of the vehicle.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A vehicle surrounding display method for causing a display device to selectively display at least two types of images in a vicinity of a vehicle, the vehicle surrounding display method comprising:

a measurement step of measuring a distance and a direction from the vehicle to an obstacle in the vicinity of the vehicle;

a comparison step of comparing the distance measured by the measurement step with a predetermined threshold value;

a first viewpoint determination step of determining a predetermined first viewpoint when a result received from the comparison step indicates that the measured distance is larger than the threshold value, and determining a second viewpoint based on the distance measured by the measurement step when the result received from the comparison step indicates that the measured distance is not larger than the threshold value;

a first image generating step of generating, when receiving the first viewpoint from the viewpoint determination step, a first image representing a view in the vicinity of the vehicle as seen from the first viewpoint, and generating, when receiving the second viewpoint from the viewpoint determination step, a second image representing a view of the vehicle and the obstacle as seen from an area in the vicinity of the second viewpoint determined by the first viewpoint determination step; and

a first display step of displaying one of the first image and the second image generated by the first image generating step;

— a second viewpoint determination step of determining a second viewpoint based on the distance measured by the measurement step when a result received from the comparison step indicates that the measured distance is not larger than the threshold value;

— a second image generating step of generating a second image representing a view of the vehicle and the obstacle as seen from an area in the vicinity of the second viewpoint determined by the second viewpoint determination step; and

— a second display step of displaying the second image generated by the second image generating step.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer program recorded on a computer-readable medium for causing a display device to selectively display at least two types of images around a vehicle, the computer program comprising:

a measurement step of measuring a distance and a direction from the vehicle to an obstacle in a vicinity of the vehicle;

a comparison step of comparing the distance measured by the measurement step with a predetermined threshold value;

a first viewpoint determination step of determining a predetermined first viewpoint when a result received from the comparison step indicates that the measured distance is larger than the threshold value, and determining a second viewpoint based on the distance measured by the measurement step when the result received from the comparison step indicates that the measured distance is not larger than the threshold value;

a first image generating step of generating, when receiving the first viewpoint from the viewpoint determination step, a first image representing a view in the vicinity of the vehicle as seen from the first viewpoint, and generating, when receiving the second viewpoint from the viewpoint determination step, a second image representing a view of the vehicle and the obstacle as seen from an area in the vicinity of the second viewpoint determined by the first viewpoint determination step; and

a first display step of displaying one of the first image and the second image generated by the first image generating step; step

— a second viewpoint determination step of determining a second viewpoint based on the distance measured by the measurement step when a result received from the comparison step indicates that the measured distance is not larger than the threshold value;

— a second image generating step of generating a second image representing a view of the vehicle and the obstacle as seen from an area in the vicinity of the second viewpoint determined by the second viewpoint determination step; and

— a second display step of displaying the second image generated by the second image generating step.